

1. (Currently amended) A method of configuring a hand-held instrument having on-board circuitry for determining the concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid or a control and producing an electrical signal representative thereof, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first port for transmitting to the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control at least one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control, providing on the instrument a second port for receiving from the configuring computer said at least one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control ~~from the configuring computer~~, connecting said first port directly to said second port, transmitting said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data ~~to configure~~ for configuring said instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control from said first port directly to said second port, receiving said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring said instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control directly from said first port at said second port, and configuring said instrument according to said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring said instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control transmitted from said first port and received at said second port.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the step of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first port for transmitting at least one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control comprises ~~the step of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first

port for transmitting instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control, and for configuring the instrument in accordance with said instructions.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein ~~the step of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first port for transmitting at least one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control comprises ~~the step of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first port for transmitting data for configuring the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control, and configuring the instrument in accordance with said data.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the step of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first port for transmitting at least one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control comprises ~~the step of~~ providing a configuring computer having a first port for transmitting data for configuring the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control, and configuring the instrument in accordance with said data.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the hand-held instrument further comprises a display for displaying information related to the determined concentration, ~~the step of~~ transmitting said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data ~~to configure~~ for configuring said instrument for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control from said first port comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control from said first port to configure said display.

6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the hand-held

instrument further comprises a display for displaying information related to the determined concentration, ~~the step of transmitting instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control~~ from said first port to configure said instrument comprising ~~the step of transmitting instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control~~ ~~to configure~~ for configuring said display.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the hand-held instrument further comprises a display for displaying information related to the determined concentration, ~~the step of transmitting said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control~~ and data ~~to configure~~ for configuring said instrument ~~for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control~~ from said first port comprising ~~the step of transmitting data to configure~~ for configuring said instrument display.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~the step of transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid~~ and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein ~~the step of transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid~~ and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.~~

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 further comprising ~~the step of transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid~~ and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 11 wherein ~~the step of transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically~~

significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14 wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising the

~~step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20 wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 further comprising ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting data concerning determined concentration of a medically

significant component of a body fluid from the instrument to the computer.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 and further comprising updating a file in the computer with the transmitted data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7 wherein ~~the steps of~~ transmitting said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data ~~to configure~~ for configuring said instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control from said first port and receiving said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring said instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control at said second port comprise transmitting said one of instructions for configuring the hand-held instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control and data for configuring said instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control through a fiber optic coupler from said first port to said second port.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29 wherein the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control comprises an instrument for determining the glucose concentration of blood, a blood fraction or a control.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 or 28 wherein ~~the step of~~ transmitting said one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid from the second port to the first port comprises ~~the step of~~ transmitting said one of instructions concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid and data concerning determined concentration of a medically significant component of a body fluid via a modem from the second port to the first port.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the instrument for determining the concentration of the medically significant component of the body fluid or control comprises an instrument for determining the glucose concentration of blood, a blood

fraction or a control.